

CAPSULE SUMMARY

PG: 79-063-~~28~~ 14

John Henry Quander House

3708 Old Crain Highway

Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County

c. 1870s

Private

The John Henry Quander House is a rare example of a post-Civil War freedman's dwelling. Although many of these modest dwellings must have been built by the newly freed people during the early years of the Reconstruction Period, few have survived. The Quander house is also significant to local history with the Quanders being active members in church and benevolent societies in Upper Marlboro and significant to national history as being one of the oldest documented African American families in the United States.²⁴ The Quanders are a well documented family and are important to the history of African-Americans in Prince George's County. The Quander name has been recognized as one of the oldest African-American families in the county.²⁵ The Quander name can be traced to Ghana, by way of Barbados, and is most likely a corruption of the name *Amkwandoh*. Many early Quanders are interlinked with America's early history. George Washington owned "at least one person with a Quander surname, Nancy Carter Washington."²⁶ Another descendent, Harry Quando was represented by Francis Scott Key, a District of Columbia attorney and the author of the Star Spangled Banner.²⁷

The John Henry Quander House is a vernacular two-story, 2 x 1 bay and square-plan I-house. The southeast elevation has a full length, one-story, 2 x 1 bay, fully enclosed porch with a shed-roof; this addition was used at a kitchen as well as a porch. The dwelling's side-gable is of shallow pitch with a standing-seam-metal roof. Wood vergeboard decorates the original, wood cornice. The main façade orients to the 'alley' Mount Pleasant Road, currently the functional 'front' façade is located on the southwest elevation, facing Old Crain Highway. The dwelling is of wood-frame construction and clad with a secondary sheathing of asbestos siding and original weatherboard. The exterior is on longer weatherproof with gaps between weatherboards and siding. The dwelling is vacant and is surrounded by extensive, overgrown foliage masking many of the house's details. The dwelling's fenestration appears to be symmetrical; currently only one window is visible. The window is single, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash with wood surrounds. A window opening on the original façade facing Mount Pleasant Road is covered with plywood. There are louvered shutters on the second story window of the elevation that faces Old Crain Highway. The main door facing Mount Pleasant Road appears to be wood and paneled. The door is no longer functional. The rear entry off of the southeast elevation has a screen door which is partially obscured. The southeast elevation has a full-length, one-story, 2 x 1 bay, fully enclosed porch with a shed-roof. The exterior is clad in vertical wood boards. The addition has a ribbon of windows on the southeast elevation; there are four wood steps leading to the porch off of the northeast elevation. This addition was used at a kitchen as well as a porch.

²⁴ Thornton, Alvin.

²⁵ Thornton, Alvin.

²⁶ Thornton, Alvin.

²⁷ Thornton, Alvin.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 79-063-~~20~~¹⁴

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John Henry Quander House

other

2. Location

street and number 3708 Old Crain Highway not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity

county Prince George's County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy L. Chapman (Trustee)

street and number 15108 Marlboro Pike telephone

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20772

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 11293 folio 560

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 93 tax parcel 10 tax ID number 0231035

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: 1996, African-American Heritage Survey, MNCPPC

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. 79-063-~~x~~ 14

Condition

☐ excellent ☒ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

The John Henry Quander House is located on the southeast side of Mount Pleasant Road, facing northwest, outside of the Town of Upper Marlboro. Constructed circa 1870s the John Henry Quander House is a rare example of a post-Civil War freedman's dwelling. The main block is a vernacular two-story, 2 x 1 bay and square-plan I-house. The southeast elevation has a full length, one-story, 2 x 1 bay, fully enclosed porch with a shed-roof; this addition was used as a kitchen as well as a porch. There is an unpaved driveway of dirt and gravel located to the west of the dwelling. The property has a slight slope to the east which causes drainage issues to the land. The dwelling has a substantial setback of approximately 200 feet from Old Crain Highway and a slight, five feet setback from Mount Pleasant Road. Mount Pleasant Road was the old lane to Mount Pleasant and is lined with many trees. The dwelling is extremely overgrown with many dense, overgrown foundation plantings that seasonally obscure the elevations. There are many trees throughout the property along with boundary plantings. A wood fence is overgrown with shrubs and vines. There is an extensive day lily garden in the rear, northeast yard.

DESCRIPTION

The John Henry Quander House is a vernacular two-story, 2 x 1 bay and square-plan I-house. The southeast elevation has a full length, one-story, 2 x 1 bay, fully enclosed porch with a shed-roof; this addition was used as a kitchen as well as a porch. The dwelling's side-gable is of shallow pitch with a standing-seam-metal roof. Wood vergeboard decorates the original, wood cornice. The main façade orients to the 'alley' Mount Pleasant Road, currently the functional 'front' façade is located on the southwest elevation, facing Old Crain Highway.

The dwelling is of wood-frame construction and clad with a secondary sheathing of asbestos siding and original weatherboard. The exterior is on longer weatherproof with gaps between weatherboards and siding. The dwelling is vacant and is surrounded by extensive, overgrown foliage masking many of the house's details. The dwelling's fenestration appears to be symmetrical; currently only one window is visible. The window is single, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash with wood surrounds. A window opening on the original façade facing Mount Pleasant Road is covered with plywood. There are louvered shutters on the second story window of the elevation that faces Old Crain Highway. The main door facing Mount Pleasant Road appears to be wood and paneled. The door is no longer functional. The rear entry off of the southeast elevation has a screen door which is partially obscured.

The southeast elevation has a full-length, one-story, 2 x 1 bay, fully enclosed porch with a shed-roof. The exterior is clad in vertical wood boards. The addition has a ribbon of windows on the southeast elevation; there are four wood steps leading to the porch off of the northeast elevation. This addition was used as a kitchen as well as a porch.

The property was made accessible on July 15, 2008 by the current owner, Mrs. Dorothy Chapman. When the Chapmans purchased the property, the dwelling was in good condition; however due to the lack of maintenance, it is rapidly deteriorating. The current owners use the former dwelling as storage. The interior is in poor condition due to extensive water damage. The entry door does not seal or lock. There are many boards missing from the porch and kitchen addition. The living room retains most of its original flooring but the area rugs have been removed and newspaper insulation remains. There is an old coal stove in the kitchen and a stove in the living room fireplace. On the second story, the northwest bedroom ceiling sags and is exposed to the outside. This major source for water infiltration is causing the first story ceiling to bow.

There is one-story, 1 x 1 bay, non-contributing shed with a shed-roof located to the south of the dwelling. It has a barn-type door and is primarily used as storage by the current landowners.

The John Henry Quander House retains a moderate-to-high level of integrity of feeling, location, design, and setting. There is a loss of integrity of association, materials, and workmanship due to the dwelling being in extremely poor condition and overgrown.

8. Significance

Inventory No. 79-063-~~2~~ 14

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1870s

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY

When Prince George's was established in 1696, Charles Town on the Patuxent was selected as the seat of government. After the establishment of Marlboro and other port towns in 1706, however, Charles Town began to fade in importance. By 1718, residents petitioned for the removal of the County Seat to Marlboro, approximately three miles northwest on the Western Branch. This was accomplished in 1721, and from that time until early the twentieth century, Upper Marlboro as it was then known, was the commercial, political, and social center of Prince George's County.¹

John Henry Quander had been one of the large enslaved force of Mordecai Plummer, one of the County's most extensive slaveholders.² Plummer's plantation, Poplar Ridge, was located near the Patuxent River about two miles north of Upper Marlboro. In October of 1875, John Henry Quander and his wife, Henrietta Tilghman purchased from Henry W. Clagett, nephew of Mordecai Plummer, approximately 1.5 acres on the road which lead to the Mount Pleasant Ferry.³ The deed states that a house was already standing at this time; it was very likely built by Quander during his enslavement to Plummer. The Quander's new home was immediately south of the large new house, Bowling Heights, built circa 1870 for the daughter of Mordecai Plummer, Jemima, at the time of her marriage to John Bowling. Once freed, the men of the Quander family worked as farm laborers, and it is likely that they relocated in order to work on the Bowlings' developing new farm, especially after the death of Mordecai Plummer in 1873.⁴ The Quander house is a rare example of a post-Civil War freedman's dwelling. Although many of these modest dwellings must have been built by the newly freed people during the early years of the Reconstruction Period, few are known to survive.

After John Henry Quander purchased the property in Upper Marlboro, the large Quander family continued farming in the Upper Marlboro vicinity and for several generations remained active in the African-American community of Upper Marlboro. As members of the Catholic Church, they were among the founders of the St. Mary's Beneficial Society. Gabriel Quander, the son of John Henry, was a delegate to the Convention of Colored Catholics which met in Washington in 1888, the first meeting of its kind.⁵ His brother, Dominic Quander, served for some time as trustee for the Upper Marlboro school, and his daughter, Henrietta Quander Walls (Evelyn Rattley's eldest aunt), continued after him in the same position.⁶ Evelyn Rattley, a Quander descendent, recalled in her oral history

¹ Pearl, Susan G. "National Register of Historic Places Woodland Historic District." United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. August 1990.

² Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996. The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission: Prince George's County 1996.

³ Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996.

⁴ Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996.

⁵ Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996.

⁶ Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996.

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Name John Henry Quander House
Continuation Sheet

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interview that her grandfather was a member of the Knights of St. John Society as well as the Holy Name Society and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.⁷

Evelyn Orena Quander Rattley is the great granddaughter of John Henry Quander.⁸ Her father, John Edward Quander, moved into Washington, DC when he was 16 and raised his family there. Evelyn Rattley spent special occasions and summers at the Quander family home in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She has fond memories of teas, weddings, and picnics outside on the lawn. The small, modest house is remembered by the fourth generation of the Quander family. In an oral interview, Evelyn Rattley stated that the foundation of the Quander family was that the "family talked about family values, they stressed hard work and education."⁹ The extended Quander family has continued to be involved in the church and in education. Evelyn Rattley described the church that she attended when visiting her family, the Assumption Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro. She notes that "at that time African-Americans were not allowed to sit in the front of the church so they would sit in the back pews and wait to take communion until all of the other parishioners went up to the communion rail."¹⁰

Evelyn Rattley describes the homestead as having one large room downstairs with a smaller room off to the southwest. The main room was used for family gatherings and formal dinners during special occasions. It had a big potbelly stove "that kept the whole house warm."¹¹ The small secondary room was her grandparent's room, a room she stated that the children were not allowed in unless it was time for prayer. Upstairs there are two slightly separated rooms. Evelyn Rattley recalled the rooms being divided to create three spaces. The female children slept in the corner, and then the aunts, the elder women, and then the men and the boys were in the other section.¹² The room held bunk beds and the total number of accommodates came to about eleven people. She marveled at "how her family could 'bring in and accommodate nieces, and nephews, and cousins when there was already a quite a number of people already living there.'"¹³ For many years there was no kitchen inside the house, it was one of the many outside spaces used by the family. The various outdoor spaces included a meat house and a "big place where they stripped and hung tobacco."¹⁴ There was an open space where they'd eat beneath an awning in the summertime. They also had a vegetable garden and an area where they raised chickens, hogs, and one cow. The only modification that ever occurred to the house was the addition of a small kitchen off the house's southeast elevation. The last uncle to live there after her grandparents died was her Uncle Gene (Eugene) Quander.

The Quanders are a well documented family and are important to the history of African-Americans in Prince George's County. The Quander name has been recognized as one of the oldest African-American families in the county.¹⁵ The Quander name can be traced to Ghana, by way of Barbados, and is most likely a corruption of the name *Amkwandoh*, which would have sounded like 'I am Quando'. The family was able to trace its history to two brothers who arrived between 1710-1718.¹⁶ Oral histories have indicated that the 'er' was added during the 1800 census through a misspelling. This unfortunate mistake masked the historical origins of the name until the 1980s. The first recorded Quando was linked to a slave owner named Henry Adams/Addams and is probably the origin of the 'Henry' name.¹⁷ Children in born enslaved were often named for blood kin, for example, the names Henry and Henrietta are common Quander family names. James Henry Quander (1855-1925) was born enslaved on the Mordecai Plummer place in Prince

⁷ Rattley, Evelyn Quander, personal communication with Charlotte King, August 2008. Oral historian Charlotte King interviewed Evelyn Orena Quander Rattley, a direct descendent of John Henry Quander, in August 2008.

⁸ Rattley, Evelyn Quander.

⁹ Rattley, Evelyn Quander.

¹⁰ Rattley, Evelyn Quander

¹¹ Rattley, Evelyn Quander

¹² Rattley, Evelyn Quander

¹³ Rattley, Evelyn Quander

¹⁴ Rattley, Evelyn Quander

¹⁵ Thornton, Alvin. "Like A Phoenix I'll Rise: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland 1696-1996." Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1997.

¹⁶ Thornton, Alvin.

¹⁷ Thornton, Alvin.

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George's County. He was named for his father John Henry Quander, a former enslaved person born in 1826 who later purchased the house at 3708 Old Crain Highway.

Many early Quanders are interlinked with America's early history. George Washington owned "at least one person with a Quander surname, Nancy Carter Washington."¹⁸ It is also believed that a West Ford was the son of Bushrod Washington (President Washington's nephew) and that one of Ford's direct decedents is Nellie Quander, the lead national incorporator and first Supreme Basileus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Another descendent, Harry Quando was represented by Francis Scott Key, a District of Columbia attorney and the author of the Star Spangled Banner.¹⁹

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Henry Quander House is a rare example of a post-Civil War freedman's dwelling. Although many of these modest dwellings must have been built by the newly freed people during the early years of the Reconstruction Period, few have survived. The Quander house is also significant to local history with the Quanders being active members in church and benevolent societies in Upper Marlboro and significant to national history as being one of the oldest documented African American families in the United States.²⁰ The Quanders are a well documented family and are important to the history of African-Americans in Prince George's County. The Quander name has been recognized as one of the oldest African-American families in the county.²¹ The Quander name can be traced to Ghana, by way of Barbados, and is most likely a corruption of the name *Amkwandoh*. Many early Quanders are interlinked with America's early history. George Washington owned "at least one person with a Quander surname, Nancy Carter Washington."²² Another descendent, Harry Quando was represented by Francis Scott Key, a District of Columbia attorney and the author of the Star Spangled Banner.²³

The John Henry Quander House is significant for its character, interest, and value as a part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of the region, for its association with a person or group of persons who influenced society, as an example of the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage of the County and its communities, and its communities, as a representative of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The John Henry Quander House is also significant under National Register of Historic Places criterion A for being a house that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and under criterion B for being a house that is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

¹⁸ Thornton, Alvin.

¹⁹ Thornton, Alvin.

²⁰ Thornton, Alvin.

²¹ Thornton, Alvin.

²² Thornton, Alvin.

²³ Thornton, Alvin.

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Chain of Title

Tax Map 93, Parcel 10

Deed

HB 10: 515

October 9, 1875

Henry W. Clagett to John Henry Quander

Deed

2: 106

April 29, 1900

John Henry Quander to John Quander, Mary Ellen Tolson, Edward Quander, and Dominick Quander (William Dominick Quander I)

Deed

2:85

May 26, 1900

John S. Quander, Anna Quander (his wife), Edward J. Quander, Mary Ellen Tolson and Fred Tolson (her husband) to Dominick Quander (William Dominick Quander I, who bequeathed the property to his heirs upon death)

Deed

7741: 186

August 3, 1990

Richard Eugene Quander (Personal Representative of the Estate of William Dominick Quander [II]), and Richard E. Quander, Christine Simmons, Francis Quander, James Quander, Paul Quander, Mary Q. Eaton, William Dominick Quander III, Alicia Sheppard, Evelyn Rattley (Personal Representative for the Estate of Henrietta Walls) and Spike M. Chapman

Deed

11293: 560

December 31, 1996

Spike M. Chapman to Dorothy L. Chapman (his wife), Trustee of the Dorothy L. Chapman Revocable Trust

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Pearl, Susan. African-American Heritage Survey 1996. The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission: Prince George's County 1996.
- Pearl, Susan G. "National Register of Historic Places Woodland Historic District." United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. August 1990.
- Prince George's County Deeds: #HB 10: 515, #2: 106, #2: 85, #7741: 186, #11293: 560
- Rattley, Evelyn Quander, personal communication with Charlotte King, August 2008.
- Thornton, Alvin. "Like A Phoenix I'll Rise: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland 1696-1996." Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.44
Acreage of historical setting 1.5
Quadrangle name Bristol Quadrangle scale: 1=24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The John Henry Quander House is located at 3708 Old Crain Highway in Prince George's County Maryland. It sits on Tax Map 93, Parcel 10. The dwelling has a large setback to the southeast from Mount Pleasant Road. The property is surrounded by other parcels of land including Parcel 98 to the northwest, Parcel 50 to the south, and Parcel 33 to the east. The house remains in its historic location; however, the once semi-rural setting has been altered by modern dwellings on adjacent properties.

11. Form Prepared by

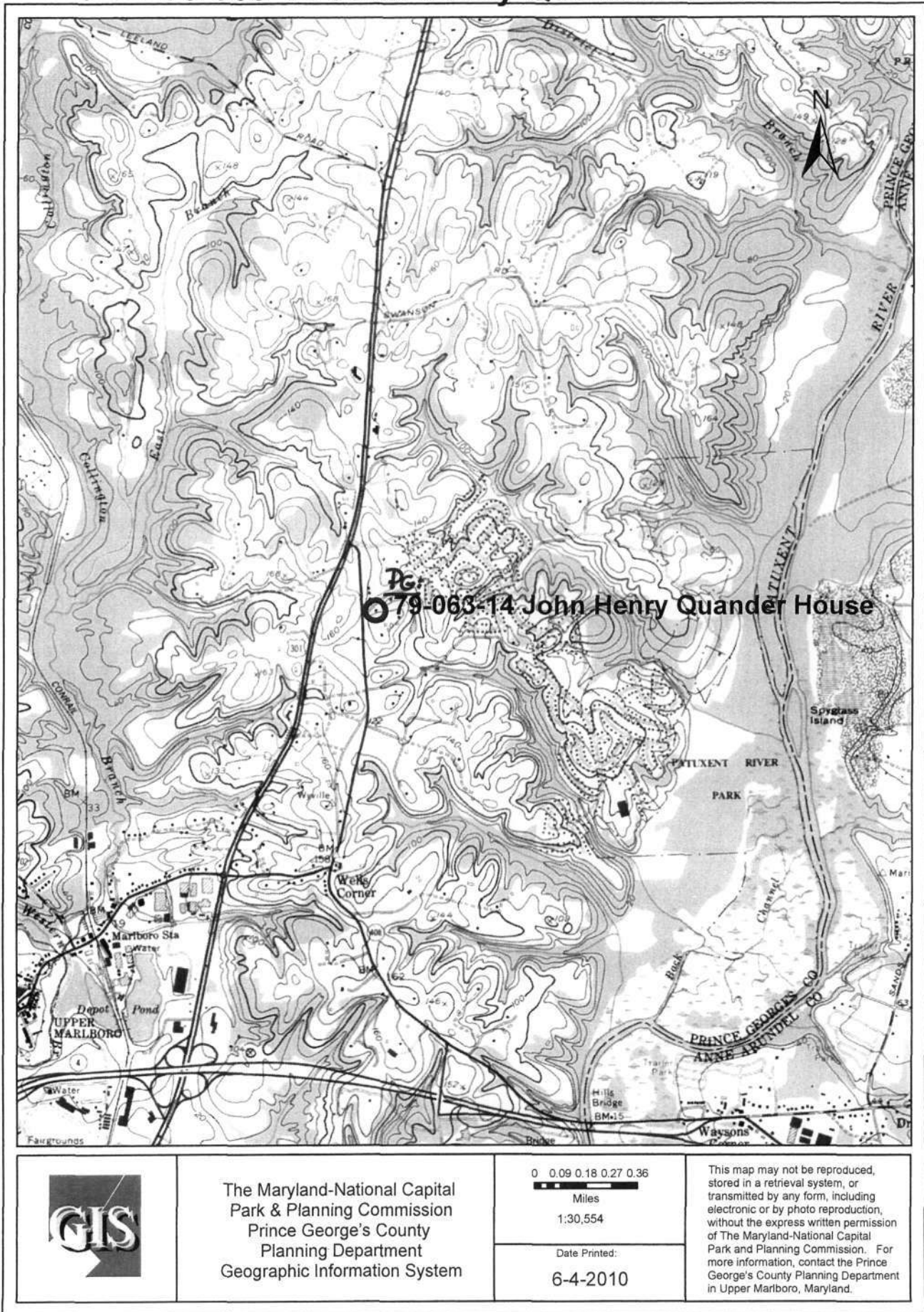
name/title	Amy Bolasky Skinner, Architectural Historian		
organization	The Ottery Group for M-NCPPC Planning Department	date	3/4/09
street & number	4320 Morningwood Drive	telephone	301.562.1975
city or town	Olney	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

PG: 79-063-14 John Henry Quander House



The Maryland-National Capital
Park & Planning Commission
Prince George's County
Planning Department
Geographic Information System

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Date Printed:
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Bristol Quad